

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, March 11, 2021
TELE CONFERENCE
FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present:

Chair Caroline Hughes; Vice Chair Bill Wegemann; Members: Judi DiFonzo, Christina Morley, Gerry Sexton

Others Present

David Shuey, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager; Representative Dianne Herrin; Abby Diebold from Senator John Kane's office; Ernie Harkness, Planning Commission Chair

COMMON ACRONYMS:

<i>ACOE</i>	<i>Army Core of Engineers</i>
<i>BI&E</i>	<i>Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement</i>
<i>BOS</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>CCATO</i>	<i>Chester County Association of Township Officials</i>
<i>CCPC</i>	<i>Chester County Planning Commission</i>
<i>DCNR</i>	<i>Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</i>
<i>DEP</i>	<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>
<i>EGT</i>	<i>East Goshen Township</i>
<i>EGSEA</i>	<i>East Goshen Safety and Environmental Advocates</i>
<i>ET</i>	<i>Energy Transfer Company</i>
<i>FOI</i>	<i>Freedom of Information</i>
<i>HDD</i>	<i>Horizontal Directional Drilling</i>
<i>IR</i>	<i>Inadvertent Return</i>
<i>ME1</i>	<i>Mariner East 1</i>
<i>ME2</i>	<i>Mariner East 2</i>
<i>PHMSA</i>	<i>Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration</i>
<i>PUC</i>	<i>Public Utility Commission</i>
<i>TF</i>	<i>Task Force</i>

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Caroline called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Caroline called for a moment of silence for those in the service and those that have served our country, for our first responders and for all impacted by COVID as the 1-year anniversary approaches.

Recording

The meeting is recorded to the cloud via Zoom meeting settings.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 11, 2021, were unanimously approved as corrected.

Public Comment – None

Chairperson's Report

Caroline reported:

- As noted last month the County Commissioners hired an independent geotechnical engineering firm regarding the sink holes. That firm reported that there are serious structural issues around the Chester County Library and are recommending a remedial process. Caroline added that there are now three (3) sink holes. The Commissioners are negotiating with Sunoco to remediate this situation.
- The Safety Seven ruling is due to come late March.

Representative Herrin

Representative Herrin reported that she and her team:

- Have been setting up the district office in order to provide local constituent service.
- Are addressing the vaccine issue.
- Are addressing unemployment claims.
- Are planning to start a neighborhood tour, knocking on doors to introduce herself and to find out what can be done to help and support.
- Had an outreach to all municipal governments in the district.
- Have started working on legislative issues.

Representative Herrin understands the pipeline issue is difficult and challenging and hopes to work with the TF on this issue.

Abby Diebold from Senator John Kane's

On behalf of Senator Kane, Abby explained that, in addition to their setting up the office, the top two issues being addressed are the COVID vaccine and unemployment compensation. Their focus has been on the policy and legislative issues around pipeline safety and regulation.

David explained that the Township has passed a unique Pipeline Saturation Ordinance that was tied to the Pennsylvania Constitution. This ordinance does not permit new pipelines in East Goshen Township. He asked that they consider addressing legislation about pipeline saturation.

Report - Dr. Ira Sasowsky's progress

Bill introduced Dr. Ira Sasowsky stating that he is assisting with the subsidence on Route 352. Dr. Sasowsky explained that the Township has hired him to conduct a desktop study to determine the cause of the subsidence and identify if it is a safety issue. He reported that there is a subsidence which was active but seems to be stable now. This is not a karst area that does not contain marble or limestone.

Dr. Sasowsky talked about the history of this area and what previously existed on the property. He explained that PennDOT did a quick and shallow excavation and reported remains of a tree with branches.

Christina asked if PennDOT stated if the area was remediated when it was backfilled. Dr. Sasowsky explained that no remediation was done. In summary, this subsidence is of moderate concern and Dr. Sasowsky does not know the cause. It can be unrelated to pipeline, but he cannot rule it out. He added that it could have a connection to the abandoned well. Before remediation can occur, further investigation is needed.

Pipeline Awareness Study Ordinance

Ernie Harkness explained that the ordinance will be on the March 16th BOS agenda. At that meeting the BOS will decide if the ordinance should go to the CCPC. Any comments regarding the ordinance can be made at the public meeting and/or can be addressed at the next Planning Commission meeting that will be held after the ordinance is returned from the CCPC. The Pipeline TF members agreed to attend the March 16th meeting to make their recommendations on the proposed consultation zone of 660 feet. Christina stated that the ordinance should use the same language that is used in the PHMSA documents referring to site-specific distance.

Water Testing

Gerry stated that there would be value for the Township to perform additional surface and ground water testing. He also suggested that input be provided from a professional hydrogeologist such as Dr. Sasowsky.

David stated that the Board would be amendable to hear recommendations regarding water testing that include the goal of what is being examined, how often and the associated costs.

Christina reported that the Willistown Conversation Trust presented at the recent Conservancy Board meeting. They are conducting a study of water sampling that includes various locations such as the near the Blacksmith Shop in the Township. Christina will invite them to a future Pipeline TF meeting.

Any Other Matter

Christina reported that she purchased an air monitor and is participating in a national air quality program that can be viewed at purpleair.com/map.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan D'Amore

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